

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

E.O.: 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, DA, EEC
SUBJ: DANISH VIEWS ON ADJUSTMENTS IN FARM PRODUCT

1. IN RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS THE INFLUENTIAL DANISH AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL HAS EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE EC COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR PERIODIC SUSPENSION OF THE EC INTERVENTION SYSTEM FOR NFDN AND BEEF. THIS PLAN IS TERMED A BREACH OF THE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND A SEVERE ATTACK ON AGRICULTURE IN THE EC. IT WAS STATED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CAP, INCLUDING THE GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES WHICH PROVIDE A SAFETY NET FOR THE EC FARMERS IN TIMES OF OVER SUPPLY. THE SUSPENSION WOULD, THE COUNCIL SAID, MAINLY HURT YOUNG EFFICIENT FARMERS WHO HAVE MADE LARGE INVESTMENTS BASED ON THE GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES.

2. THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN THE LONGER
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RUN A BETTER BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND, PARTICULARLY IN THE DAIRY SECTOR, WILL BE NECESSARY BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY ELIMINATING UNPROFITABLE DAIRY HERDS. IT ADDED THAT IN THE CURRENT SITUATION THE ALTERNATIVE TO FARMING IS UNEMPLOYMENT AND THAT IT IS CHEAPER TO MAINTAIN THE GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES THAN TO PAY THE SOCIAL COSTS OF UNEMPLOYED FARMERS.

3. COMMENT: THE UNUSUALLY STRONG STATEMENTS BY THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL REFLECT A GROWING DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE EC AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER AS WELL AS POSITIONING BEFORE THE ANNUAL CAP PRICE NEGOTIATIONS ENTER THE DECISIVE PHASE. THE DANISH FARMERS ARE NOT TOO UNHAPPY WITH THE PROPOSED TWO PERCENT AVERAGE INCREASE IN CAP PRICES BUT THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT A MAIN PRINCIPLE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (THE INTERVENTION SYSTEM) IS BEING THREATENED. WE BELIEVE THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS MUCH MORE DISPOSED TO MODIFICATIONS IN THE INTERVENTION SYSTEM THAN THE COUNCIL'S PUBLIC SPOKESMEN.

DEAN

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